17.899/c

M xx
19/c

ERRATA.

P. 8, l. 28, for hatsful, read hatfuls, improperly altered by the printer after the last revise.

P. 19, l. 1, for more *a*, read *a* more.

P. 24, l. 11, add to the last word, " with sticks at least."

A Recommendation to Farriers and Shoeing Smiths,

Throughout the United Kingdom of Great Britain,

In respect to the injurious Practice of slicing and cutting away the HORN from the FROGS of HORSES' FEET.

AS this baneful practice is still carried on to a shameful extent, and even increasingly so, we have thought, as it were perversely, in opposition to the recommendations and efforts made to suppress it, and sometimes ignorantly, by which the feet of Horses are brought into a state of painful tenderness and unfitness for service, and are thereby prematurely ruined, so we are induced, from seeing fully the mischiefs of such proceedings, to draw up this short remonstrance, shewing from the plainest reasoning the fallacy of the grounds usually advanced by the Shoers of Horses for this practice, that they may not, through absolute ignorance, be offending in this respect; and which, it is hoped, will have weight with the candid and well-disposed, and that Masters by informing their Men, especially new comers into the trade and young men, of it, that these ruinous measures may be avoided.

The following is a clear statement of what those who are the advocates for the practice advance in its defence, and the answers thereto.

The first and most usual plea for cutting the Horn of this part is, "*that it grows as the other parts of the Foot, and would grow all over the Foot, if let alone, and become too big for the Foot.*"

Answer. A more scrupulous examination of the growth of the Horn of this part would teach them that the Horn of the Frog grows only to a certain thickness, the bounds of which a wise Providence has beautifully ordained, and beyond which it can never pass, for when it has reached this natural extent of thickness of its Horn, it then loses its power of coherence, and falls into scurfs or scales and moulders away, leaving the figure of the Frog ever entire, otherwise it is obvious every Horse in a state of nature would from overgrowth become a cripple. That this apprehension of its overgrowing the Foot is without the least foundation, and removing it in whole slices on this account is obviously unnecessary, and mischievous, for it renders the remaining Horn thin and liable to crack. And the sole also, we may observe, exfoliates in flakes, in the same manner on arriving at its assigned limits of thickness, that we need not be surprized that the Frog is concurring also in this law; it is clear, therefore, that by removing so much of the natural and necessary covering and due thickness of Horn of this part, is in fact, depriving the animal of so much useful defence, the horn thus thinned, renders the part more sensible and tender, and which, as it is often brought strongly upon the ground, is made too weak and sensible for sustaining the impression, especially when opposed to rough bodies of the road, and bruised, causing heat and inflammation, its health and natural toughness is lost, it dries, contracts, next splits, hardens, and fissures forming, which give lodgment to wet and dirt, &c. the part is finally cankered, undermined, and destroyed.

The second plea used for defending this practice is, *To remove the Rags.* Now this appears a more plausible pretext for cutting it than the former, but let us examine and see how these Rags are made, which will clear up this point. It is obvious, on inspection, that the healthy natural Frog at the commencement has a smooth exterior surface, but when this natural exterior coat which is of a denser and harder nature, is by any means removed, the more interior Horn, being moist and succulent, dries, especially if in dry weather, and, in drying, cracks; the edges of these cracks or fissures next turn back or are reflected, and become what are called *Rags,* though it is also true that certain roughnesses or Rags may arise from natural causes, but, by far the most frequent and general way is from previous cutting; now to remove these they make a deeper incision than the Rag, which exposing still more interiorly the Horn of the part, serves only to increase the evil by producing more Rags, and going nearer and nearer to the quick at each successive cutting, the Frog at last is fairly flayed, and robbed of its Horn, shrinking, it becomes hard, brittle, and painful to the animal, and is made too tender for the contact of hard bodies, and a grievous source of misery and danger in the use of him; wet and dirt, as we have before stated, get in and canker and destroy the internal parts.

Another inducement also we have thought for cutting it is, the consistence of this part, which being like leather or hard cheese, is inviting to the knife. There is also a delusive expression much used, which has the same mischievous tendency, and that is, the unmeaning phrase of Coachmen and others, who certainly are not acquainted with the œconomy of this part, and who direct the Smiths "*to well pare out the Foot;*" now the word *well,* so delusively employed in this case, is quite as easily used with mischievous as with good measures, and as it is in this case a gross assumption, and leads to much evil, so against it all honest practitioners, and those having the welfare of their art and of the Horses in view, should be on their guard; and these Coachmen should leave the things not belonging to their department to those whose business it is to know and understand them better.

Distributed gratis to be hung up in Forges, or sold to such Gentlemen as wish to have them in the Forges they respectively shoe at, at 6d. each.

W. Flint, Printer, Old Bailey, London.